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17 JUL 1952

TO: Project Review Committee

THROUGH: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Staffing for Photo-Intelligence within ORR

1. PROBLEMS

To provide photo intelligence services for the various components of CIA.

2. ASSUMPTIONS

- a. The current recognition of the value of air photography as an essential source for detailed intelligence in support of CIA operations, research and production will continue to expand with resultant increase in requirements for this type of activity.
- b. Air photographic missions, for reconnaissance and mapping purposes, will continue in areas of direct interest to CIA.
- c. Photo interpretation units within the Department of Defense will not radically change their current objectives.

3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

- a. The use of photo intelligence in support of CIA activities has not been properly exploited to date. Requirements of CIA operational and research components during the past year indicate a clear need for detailed information obtainable only from air photography. Adequate analysis of this air photography is dependent upon availability of trained experts in photo analysis and interpretation with experience and understanding of the specialized fields of interest being served.
- b. A survey of currently recognized and anticipated requirements of CIA components for photo intelligence clearly indicates that many of these requirements necessitate techniques and skills not found in the photo interpretation units of the Department of Defense and

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frequently are so sensitive that the photo analysis must be restricted to the Agency. Furthermore, the time element for the requirement may prohibit reliance upon photo intelligence facilities in other agencies, particularly in view of the operational priorities of work conducted within those agencies.

c. Effective and efficient photo intelligence in support of research and operations in meeting CIA requirements requires intimate working relations between photo intelligence specialists and the analysts being served with free and immediate exchange of knowledge and intelligence information.

d. Aerial, and occasionally ground, photography is readily available through the facilities of the Graphics Register Division, Office of Collection and Dissemination, which has ready access to all photographic libraries and repositories in the Washington area and elsewhere.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

a. Recent conferences with Assistant Directors of the various appropriate Offices and with their assistants and selected analysts indicate clearly a definite need for photo intelligence and an interest in obtaining such specialized service. Annex "A" is a review of an initial evaluation of current and anticipated CIA requirements for this type of work.

b. The photo interpretation work undertaken within the Department of Defense is pointed predominantly toward target selection and, as a result, is very limited in value for use in meeting CIA requirements. Furthermore, photo interpretation is considered by the military services as a technical service and is largely divorced from intelligence with a consequent lack of understanding of the problems facing the analysts.

c. A photo intelligence officer, although skilled in techniques and applications, does his best analysis within the substantive field in which he is most competent. It is, therefore, necessary to have several photo analysts with varying substantive backgrounds to form an effective team. The proposed photo intelligence staff is not envisaged as a producer of finished intelligence but as an active contributor to such intelligence. A tentative plan of operation for this staff is described in Annex "B".

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5. CONCLUSIONS

a. A definite lack of proper exploitation of air photography to meet CIA requirements exists within the Agency and should be corrected by the establishment of a photo intelligence staff. This staff should be placed within the Geographic area of OER because of the centralized supporting characteristics of the operation, its dependence on cartographic and graphic assistance in providing results, and its close association with the various components of OER in fulfilling a large proportion of the CIA requirements in support of operations and research.

b. There is more than an adequate immediate and anticipated demand for photo intelligence within CIA, with suitable reconnaissance and other air photography available, to justify the establishment of this photo intelligence organization as rapidly as qualified photo analysts can be recruited.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDED

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Approval of an allotment of [REDACTED] from vouchered funds for personal services and expenses, and an increase in T/O and in the personnel ceiling for OER for fiscal 1953 to provide for 11 qualified photo analysts and one clerk-stenographer to be brought into the organization on a phased basis in accordance with the estimated recruitment plan described in Annex "C".

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[REDACTED]  
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Deputy Director/Intelligence

OER:D/G [REDACTED] mk (15 July 1952)

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